

8. TACHYPEDES MINOR (Gm.) ; Salvad. t. c. p. 364.

Nos. 21, 22, ♂ ♀. In lagoon, Cocos Keeling Islands, January 29, 1879. "Burung itam" or "Bangoo cicir." Irides brown.

Neither of the above is quite adult."

V.—*A Second List of Birds from Mombasa, East Africa.*

By J. H. GURNEY.

My late valued friend and relative the Rev. F. A. Buxton was so good as to allow me to examine a second collection of birds sent to him from Mombasa by Mr. J. W. Handford, amongst which I find the following species that were not in the former collection, recorded in 'The Ibis,' 1881, p. 124. I have numbered the birds in the present list consecutively with those in the previous one, and have marked with an asterisk the species which I do not find to have been previously recorded from Mombasa or its immediate vicinity.

*41. CAPRIMULGUS MOSAMBICUS, Peters. Mosambique Nightjar.

The specimen sent, which is probably a female, differs from the description given in Sharpe's 'Layard,' p. 88, in having no white on the tail, the outer webs and the tips of the external pair of rectrices being fawn-coloured, and the upper part of the web for about one fourth of its total length being variegated with dark blackish-brown markings resembling those which extend over the whole length of the corresponding web in the female of the nearly allied South-African *C. rufigena*; a narrow line of the same dark colour (also on the outer web) adjoins the shaft of the feathers throughout, except at the tip, on which latter part, however, the fawn tint is suffused with a decided tinge of darker brown; the secondaries are also tipped with pale fawn, instead of with white, as described by Mr. Sharpe.

The present specimen greatly resembles in its general aspect the female of *C. rufigena*; but, besides the differences

of coloration above referred to, it has the wing nearly half an inch ($\cdot 45$) shorter.

42. *HALCYON SENEGALOIDES*, Smith. Mangrove Kingfisher.

43. *MEROPS PUSILLUS* (Müll.). Rufous-winged Bee-eater.

*44. *MEROPS NUBICUS*, Gmel. Nubian Bee-eater.

*45. *COSSYPHA NATALENSIS*, Smith. Natal Chat-Thrush.

The specimen sent, which appears to be adult, does not show the "external border of pale orange" to the secondaries mentioned in the description of this species given in Sharpe's Layard, p. 224.

46. *CRATEROPUS RUBIGINOSUS*, Rüpp. Rufous-breasted Babbler.

47. *ORIOLOUS LARVATUS*, Licht. Masked Oriole.

The sex of the specimen sent is doubtful, as in this species the sexes, when fully adult, differ very slightly, if at all, in plumage (*vide* Ibis, 1879, p. 399); but it is smaller than either of two dissected females from Transvaal, with which I have compared it; the following are the comparative measurements:—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tarsus. in.
Mombasa	0.90	5.00	0.90
Transvaal, ♀	0.95	5.60	1.00
Transvaal, ♀	1.00	5.70	1.05

The observations of M. Barboza du Bocage as to the variations of size in this species, in his 'Ornithologie d'Angola,' vol. i. p. 329, may be consulted with advantage.

48. *POMATORHYNCHUS ERYTHROPTERUS* (Shaw). Rufous-winged Bush-Shrike.

*49. *DRYOSCOPUS SUBLACTEUS*, Cassin. Cassin's Bush-Shrike.

50. *BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS* (Bechst.). Musical Drongo.

51. *BRADYORNIS PALLIDUS* (Müll.). Pallid Flycatcher.

52. *CRITHAGRA CHRYSOPYGA*, Swains. Golden-rumped Grosbeak.

*53. *UROBRACHYA ZANZIBARICA*, Shelley. Zanzibar Widow-bird.

(*Cf.* P. Z. S. 1881, p. 586, on Dr. Kirk's collection, No. 115.)

54. *CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS*, Hempr. et Ehr. White-browed Lark-heel.

*55. *COCCYSTES ALBONOTATUS*, Shelley. East-African Crested Cuckoo.

(*Cf.* P. Z. S. 1881, p. 594, on Dr. Kirk's collection, No. 151.)

The specimen sent from Mombasa by Mr. Handford was presented by Mr. Buxton to the British Museum; it had the basal portion of the bill thickly coated with dried mud, apparently indicating that the bird had been seeking its food in moist soil.

56. *DENDROPICUS ZANZIBARI*, Malh. Zanzibar Woodpecker.

The specimen, a male, which was sent from Mombasa by Mr. Handford appeared to me to be somewhat different from the South-African *D. cardinalis*; and I therefore submitted it to Mr. E. Hargitt, who has given much attention to the Woodpeckers, and who has kindly informed me that it is identical with specimens from Zanzibar, respecting which he has also been good enough to furnish me with the following particulars:—"Malherbe regarded the Zanzibar bird as distinct and named it *D. zanzibari*, but later on considered it to be the same species as his *D. hartlaubi*†, which came from Port Natal. Although Malherbe states the differences

† Mr. Hargitt informs me that he considers *D. hartlaubi* and *D. cardinalis* not to be specifically distinct from each other, and adds, "I cannot regard *D. hartlaubi* as a species; I think the amount of red upon the upper tail-coverts is to be attributed to age."

in plumage, which, however, he does not think sufficient to constitute a species, he omits the measurements, which to me seem worthy of note; but as he points out the variations in terms sufficient to form a scientific description, if, as I think, the Zanzibar race is worthy of a separate title, Malherbe's name should be reinstated, although *zanzibaricus* would be a more correct form of writing it."

On comparing the male of *Dendropicus zanzibari* sent from Mombasa with a male of *D. cardinalis* from Rustenburg, in Transvaal, I observe the following differences of coloration between them:—

1st. In the Mombasa bird the brown patch on the forehead is less extended, the distance from the junction of the forehead with the upper mandible to the commencement of the scarlet crown being .45 inch, whilst in the Transvaal Woodpecker it is .75.

2nd. The blackish-brown moustache running downward from the angle of the mouth is much less conspicuous in the Mombasa bird, being both shorter and narrower than in that from Transvaal.

3rd. The dark shaft-marks on the upper breast are also narrower in the Mombasa specimen.

4th. In the Mombasa bird the shaft-marks on the abdomen are even narrower than on the breast, and there are no traces on the abdomen of the regular transverse blackish bars alternating with dull white, which are conspicuous in the Transvaal male*.

5th. In the Mombasa Woodpecker the under tail-coverts are white, with one or two small brown circular spots on each feather; in the Transvaal bird these coverts are transversely barred like the abdomen, except that the dark bars are brown instead of blackish.

The following are measurements of two males of each species, taken in two instances by Mr. Hargitt and in two by myself. I do not give the total length, as, when merely taken from a skin, I do not think it can be relied on.

* In a female of *D. cardinalis* from Rustenburg these transverse bars are less regular and conspicuous than in the male.

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
<i>D. zanzibari</i> , from Zanzibar, measured by Mr. Hargitt	0·80	3·60	1·80	0·65
<i>D. zanzibari</i> from Mombasa . .	0·70	3·40	1·80	0·60
<i>D. cardinalis</i> , from Eland's Post, measured by Mr. Hargitt	0·85	3·70	1·95	0·63
<i>D. cardinalis</i> , from Rustenburg	0·77	4·00	2·10	0·60

57. NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS, Linn. European Whimbrel.

In conclusion I am desirous of adding a few remarks on some of the birds mentioned in my former list (Ibis, 1880, p. 124).

TROGON (HAPALODERMA) NARINA.

Through the kindness of Captain Shelley I have had the opportunity of comparing the Trogon sent from Mombasa with specimens from Natal, the Usambara Mountains, and Fantee; and I cannot avoid the conclusion that the *Hapaloderma constantia*, Sharpe and Usher, Ibis, 1872, p. 181, is not in reality specifically distinct from the South-African *H. narina*; the peculiarities relied on in the original description of *H. constantia* are not, in my opinion, of a stable character, as the specimens from different localities which I have examined closely resemble each other, passing from one shade of coloration and marking to another by almost imperceptible gradations.

MEROPS SUPERCILIOSUS.

I find that I was in error in marking this species as not having been previously recorded from Mombasa.

MERISTES OLIVACEUS.

This bird should stand as *M. icterus* (Cuv.). Vide Captain Shelley's list of Dr. Kirk's collection in P. Z. S. 1881, p. 581.

DRYOSCOPIUS AFFINIS.

In referring to Finsch and Hartlaub's figure of *D. orientalis* (Vög. Ost-Afr. pl. 5. fig. 2) as representing this species, I omitted to explain that *D. orientalis* appears to be the female of *D. affinis*. I am indebted for the knowledge of this fact to Capt. Shelley, who has recorded it in the list above referred to (P. Z. S. 1881, p. 580).